

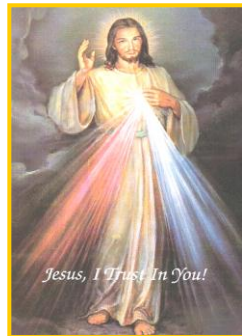
JOYFUL GIFT

Sunday 3rd April 2016, 2nd Sunday of Easter, Year C
Divine Mercy Sunday

Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch:

<http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

www.facebook.com/PenhaDeFrancaChapel.Funchal



The Roman Catholic English Service Mass in Madeira

Welcome to the **Chapel of Penha de França**. Almost 400 years old, this small Chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, and built on a "penha" or peak, by the sea. It was originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the Pontinha Redoubt (stronghold) in the bay of Funchal, but the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. When the Diocese of Funchal took possession of the chapel it was used as the Bishop's Summer Residence for many years. In the meantime, the Franciscans had been coming to Madeira to carry out apostolic duties, and in 1935, they founded the Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. The nave roof has recently been repaired and the ceiling restored through the generosity of a frequent visitor to our English Mass. Father Bernardino de Andrade is the presiding priest for the English Service Mass on Sundays.

Today's Scripture Readings

(Acts 5:12-16; Ps 117(118); Rev 1:9-19; John 20:19-31)

All the first readings of Eastertide are from the Acts of the Apostles describing the early years of the Church. The second readings are from the Book of Revelation, John's vision of the new life in heaven promised to all believers. The readings from John's Gospel describe Jesus' resurrection appearances and claims of his unity with the Father. Today the risen Jesus identifies himself as the one crucified, before this Gospel's first ending. We can wonder what Jesus' transformed body was like. He was recognised, invited touch, but not limited by space or time.



In Acts Peter and John were arrested, then released. The growing Christian community lived in peace. Peter acted as judge of Israel once only, killing Ananias and his wife Sapphira for pretending to have given all their wealth to the community. In today's reading the other disciples stand apart from the Apostles, apparently in awe after this display of Peter's power – doubtless further amazed by these healing miracles.

John is exiled to the island of Patmos, south-west of Ephesus, for spreading the gospel. In this first chapter of Revelation a figure appears to John in his vision, identifying himself both as the risen "Son of Man", which Jesus called himself while on earth, and as "the First and the Last" – ie God. John is commanded to write down what is now to be revealed to him.

- Brought to you by Chris Oliver



Hymns: Entry: 224 (*Holy, holy, holy*)

Mass: Lord have Mercy: 659 **Holy: 704** **Lamb of God: 655**

Offertory: 330 (*Look around you*)

Exit: 93 (*Colours of Day*)

Music by: Larysa Makarova

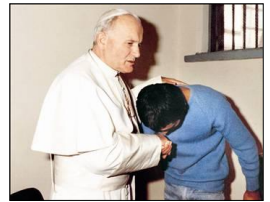
From My Heart to Your Heart - ASSASSIN AND VICTIM SHAKING HANDS

Brought to you by – Fr. Bernardino Andrade



A *Time Magazine* issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat in metal folding chairs. The young man wore a blue turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap in his head. They sat facing one another, up close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation. The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the Pope's attempted assassin (who shot the Pope on May 13th, 1981); the other man was Pope St. John Paul II, the intended victim.

The Pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet had torn into the Pope's body. This was a living icon of mercy. John Paul's forgiveness was deeply Christian. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting Ali Agca raised the Pope's hand to his forehead as sign of respect. Pope St. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly. When the Pope left the cell he said, «What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust». This is an example of God's Divine Mercy.



Today, the Second Sunday of Easter is called the Divine Mercy Sunday. «**Be merciful just as your Father is merciful**» (Lk. 6, 36). Mercy is not for those who «deserve» mercy. Mercy is for those who «need» Mercy.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

St. Faustina and THE IMAGE OF THE DIVINE MERCY

St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known **apostle of Divine Mercy**.

On the 30th of April 2000, the Second Sunday of Easter, at 10:00 am, His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in Saint Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina. "**The Lord of Divine Mercy,**" a **drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina**, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with his left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. **The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!"** (*Jezu, ufam Tobie*). The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God. The original Divine Mercy image now hangs in Vilnius, Lithuania.



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

People Helping People (PHP) is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França to help those in need.

Our Bishop D. António once said, "One must find new ways of helping the poor". A very small group of people attending the English Mass decided to do just that! In a short period of time we have created partnerships with restaurants and supermarket chains, we have paid dozens of medical prescriptions, we have spent gallons and gallons of petrol riding across the island giving lifts, we have prevented families to lose their homes, get their electricity cut off, run out of gas.

We have tried to keep them warm, keep them hopeful, keep them dreaming....



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

If you would like to make a donation towards this worthy project, and help those who really need it, the bank details are as follows:

Bank: Banco Santander Totta

IBAN:

PT50 0038 0000 40900916771 75

BIC (SWIFT): BNIFPTPL

Account number: 000409009167710

Bank Address:

Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A,

9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal



Moynihans Irish Bar, on the corner up the road from the Chapel, also **accepts Donations** of food, toiletries or clothes for PHP.



CONTACTS:

Europe: Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal. email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

USA: Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561.

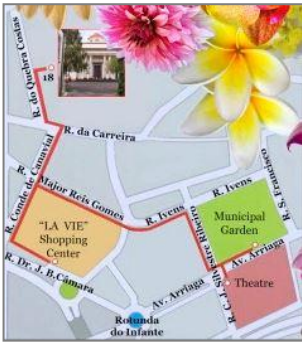
UK: chris@chris-oliver.net

Madeira's Flower Festival – Festivities and Parade



Every year, two weeks after Easter, Madeira's flower-festival fills the main streets of Funchal's centre with floats displaying a myriad of flowers and colours. **On Saturday, April 9th, thousands of children will gather in the Praça do Município town square where they will build a 'Wall of Hope', made of thousands of flowers.** The children place their flowers with the objective of building a big flower wall symbolizing the hope for a better and more peaceful world. This tradition takes place every year on the eve of Madeira's famous **flower festival street parade, which this year will be on Sunday, April 10th at 4pm** in Funchal. Other activities during this time include the making of flower carpets in the streets, folklore performances, flower shows, classical music concerts and variety shows.

Source: <http://www.madeira-web.com/PagesUK/event-listing.html>



Bible Group

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic Bible Group:
THURSDAYS
2pm in the English Church Library.
Gospel of John: Chapter 18

Mothers' Prayer Group

Last Thursday of each month
11h00-12h00 at the English Church
Mothers & Grandmothers of all ages welcome.
More information: <http://www.mothersprayers.org/>

JOIN US AFTER MASS FOR TEA AND COFFEE!



There is a meeting room (*also known as the Tea and Coffee Room*) right across the garden, in front of the Chapel. Please feel free to go there after mass this morning, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and some traditional Madeiran biscuits.

There is a **Visitor's Book** there, where you can leave a message, tell us what country you are from, write a short note about your experience of being at mass in Penha de França Chapel, or give us any suggestions.

On one of the walls we have a **world map** where you can put a pin on your home town. We'd love to know where you're from!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.

- Pope Francis

Please remember to leave your yellow *Hymn Book* and *Order of the Mass* sheets outside the Chapel entrance after mass ☺



Tall?

Please beware low door lintels



1st Collection Total from last week:

€ 149,70